(c) and (d) The Review Committee submitted its Report to the Government in April, 2007. The Committee has, inter-alia, recommended that the National Council for Teacher *Education Act, J 993 be repealed.*

Entry of foreign law firms

1376. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed the entry of foreign law firms into the Indian legal services sector, to practise foreign law;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is in response to India's Commitment to liberalise service sector, as promised under WTO;

(d) if so, to what extent Government is ready to bring liberalization and allow foreign firms to practise in India into legal profession; and

(e) whether Indian legal community has raised any objection in this regard, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir;

(b) Does not arise;

(c) No, Sir;

(d) Does not arise;

(e) Yes, Sir. The Government has invited the views of all stakeholders in the matter, including objections, if any.

Setting up of high courts benches

†1377. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of high court benches functioning in the States, at present;

(b) the norms followed to set up a bench or a special bench;

(c) the States where movement for setting up of such benches is going on;

(d) whether Government has received any report of such movement from Orissa;

(e) whether the State Chief Minister has submitted any letter to the Central Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details of steps being taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) There are 14 Permanent Benches functioning at present in the jurisdiction of 6 High Courts.

(b) The Jaswant Singh Commission in this report suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of expediency and desirability of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi